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Why Farmers Should Raise Draft Horses.

The keeping of large and better horses would be a step forward for Florida farmers. A large horse can draw a small load if that is all that you have to move, or he can easily walk off with a heavy load when occasion require. The small horse can only move a small load and yet it costs more to feed, in proportion to size, than the large one.

The following argument is from the Live Stock Journal:

First, the improved method of farming, the use of the sulky and gang plows, riding harrows, corn plows, etc., call for good draft horses to do this heavy work.

While every farmer should raise his own horses to do the farm work he should also raise a few to sell every year. And it seems to me the kind of horse best suited for his use on the farm would be the kind to raise for the market. For this reason: Supposing you have a good draft horse or mare blemished by wire cuts in some way; which would hurt them in selling to the buyers. They can be kept on the farm and earn their feed, and the mare can produce colts; and a good draft horse brings the highest price on the market.

Some of the largest business firms in Chicago and New York buy the best draft horses to use on their heavy wagons as advertisements to their business.

One of our local horse buyers took me to his barn and showed me a draft horse which he had been trying all last summer to buy of a farmer in this county. He succeeded in buying the horse by paying a good price. He was a horse of about 1,600 pounds, a true type of Percheron. A fine head, broad back, good shoulders, a nice arched neck, heavy bone. He remarked that he would pay almost any price if he could buy such horses but he can't find them.

I inquired about the breeding of the horse and he said, the sire is a good registered Percheron, and the dam a three-fourths Percheron mare of 1,900 pounds weight. I think while we should try to grow the best kind of corn and other crops, and increase the yield per acre, we should also breed our stock of horses, cattle, sheep, hogs and poultry to the highest type, in no kind of stock will we be better repaid than in breeding our draft horses as near the true type as possible.

Now, the question comes to us, how can we do this? Simply by breeding with a purpose or a fixed type of a horse in view.

I think we could make no better investment on our farms than to buy a pure bred draft mare or a team of mares. They will earn their feed doing the heavy farm work I speak of,

and raise a good colt besides that will bring the highest market price.

The high price that pure bred draft horses are bringing at the recent pure bred sales indicates to me that farmers are improving their horses all over the country, which is only in line with all improved methods of farming and stock raising.

Some will say: Can a farmer afford to pay from \$300 to \$400 for a registered draft mare? Yes. I will just mention here a farmer that I know in Clinton county, Iowa, who owned a Percheron mare. When I saw her a year ago she was 12 years old, and sold for \$410. This same mare is the dam of eight colts that sold for \$4,250. I was at his sale and saw seven of them sold for \$2,750. He had sold one before privately for \$1,500.

Two years ago, another farmer only thirty miles from here sold four Percheron mares for \$1,415. Two of these I succeeded in getting. These mares have done the farm work and raised four colts in two years.

While I do not expect to do as well as the parties mentioned, I consider it the best investment I ever made.

Farm Labor in the South.

This question still continues to occupy a large place in the thoughts of southern farmers. We quote from The Florida Fruit and Truck Grower:

Some of our contemporaries are just now discussing the necessity for more and better labor in field and grove, and, however, they may differ, it is to be observed that, as a rule, they seem to agree upon one thing—namely, that the negro will not work and that, in any case, his work is so slipshod and uncertain as to be hardly worth having.

This is perhaps rather unjust to "the man and brother," who, on the whole seems to do very well along lines with which he is familiar. Furthermore, the negro's disinclination to farm labor for others doubtless arises in part from the fact that in this country of cheap land he finds it so much easier to work for himself.

This problem is one that could obviously never be settled by the influx of new settlers. Such newcomers would, as a rule, be looking for farms of their own, rather than for employment on the farms of others, thus leaving the situation as bad as before.

The conditions we have in mind all point to a marked modification of agricultural methods in the South. If our staple crops are such as demand a host of unskilled laborers, and those laborers are not to be had it is evident that the difficulty can be overcome only by substituting for our present staples such crops as can be cultivated and harvested by mechanical appliances.

As the Birmingham News, in a thoughtful editorial upon this subject, puts it:

There is little good in complaining

that the negro will not work on the farm. The only thing to do is to fit the farms to new conditions. The old order on the plantation has passed away. On some plantations and in some countries there is still plenty of labor at \$10, \$12 and \$15 a month, but it will not be there long. The labor question has to be met in new ways. Either the farmers will have to change their crops to hay and potatoes and things which do not require much labor, or they will have to sell part of their land or devote it to grazing.

Cost of Growing Lemons.

If you are a grower of citrus fruits and your place is so situated that you can safely plant lemon trees, here is something that will interest you. It ought to be possible to raise lemons in this state, where they can be grown at all, as cheaply as it can be done in California. A correspondent of the Citograph gives the figures of the cost on his place. Certainly the business must be very profitable at the present prices of lemons. The market for lemons is seldom glutted and the demand seems to increase faster than the supply. The trees are much more sensitive to cold than orange trees and therefore the area available for successful lemon culture in Florida is much smaller than that where oranges can be raised. But within that territory there ought to be a large increase in the acreage of lemon trees planted as fast as it is possible to prepare the land and set out the trees.

The exact cost of growing a box of fruit is something very illusive, there being so many other things to edge in and destroy the accuracy of the figures. To find out just what the cost is one must have a definite piece of ground on which nothing else is grown. This is hard to find but it seems that Mr. J. E. Mosely, of Corona, in Riverside county, is just so situated. In answer to a query by the Pomona Review, Mr. Mosely sent the following letter for publication, which we reprint in full, hoping that other growers, both of oranges and lemons, similarly situated, may be induced to write their experiences for publication. Mr. Mosely says:

In response to your request for information as to what my ten acres of lemon orchard have actually done during the year that began October 1st 1904, and ended October 1, 1905, I submit the following: I have kept a set of account books as carefully as I did when banking. I know to a cent exactly what my running expenses have been and what my returns have been. If I have harness mended for ten cents, or a gopher trap bought for fifteen cents, it goes down in my expense book. I keep track of my hours

spent in the interest of my orchard, and I put my time in at thirty cents an hour.

The gross receipts from my 1,000 lemon trees have been extraordinary since June 8. I should say that I saw the great demand coming for our California lemons this past season, by reason of the damage to the Italian crop. So I kept my crop back as much as possible.

Briefly, my ten acres of lemons have produced lemons that have yielded me personally \$2,776. Previous to June 1, subsequent to October 1, 1904, I sold lemons from the same grove that netted me \$503. That makes \$3,279 from the grove during twelve months.

Now for the expense during the past year:

I do not claim that my lemon grove is a wonderful producer, for I know that many lemon groves get more fruit from 1,000 eleven-year old trees than I get from mine. But I do think that my system of bookkeeping permits me to know to a decimal what it costs me to grow fruit.

To sum it all up, I find that I can grow lemons in an average year, for exactly forty-six and one-third cents a box, and can pay all my orchard expenses with that sum per box. I got \$2.83 for 312 boxes of lemons in August. The fruit sold in New York for \$5.06 a box. I sold all my summer and fall lemons at an average of \$2.03 per box, net to me, from June 5 to October 1. That seems to me to be a pretty fine profit. If I could find a market at one cent a pound for all the lemons I could grow, I would plant the whole land to lemons. There's a fair profit in them at fifty-five cents a box.

Florida Can Raise the Food.

The following editorial from The Tampa Weekly Times contains a truth that one Florida farmer ought to learn.

The people of this country have so long been accustomed to consider corn indispensable to the production of hogs that it comes as a surprise to find that there are other kinds of feed which are not only cheaper but actually better. Colorado may be credited with making and clinching the discovery. It came through the fact that corn cannot be raised profitably in that state in competition with other crops better adapted to the high altitude and limited rainfall. On irrigated lands the small grain and alfalfa crops were so much more valuable that the people could not afford to raise the corn. But they needed meat to eat, and they hesitated to pay the prices for imported meat cured elsewhere. It was found that alfalfa pastured hogs grew faster and finer than any other, that English peas finished them to the best perfection, that sugar beets made a hard, firm, finely flavored flesh, superior to that produced by finishing with